

Broadview/Bitter Lake/Haller Lake Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)

MEETING SUMMARY

May 11, 2011 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Bitter Lake Community Center

Attendees

NAC Members:

Dan Stern, Edmond Ryan, Fran Clifton, Gloria Butts, Greg Brotherton, Jeff VanderGiessen, Joseph Monda, Josh Freedman, Philip Junkins, Rick Barrett, Sue Jensen.

Partners: John Owen (MAKERS), Dara O'Byrne (MAKERS)

City Staff:

Nora Liu (DPD), David Goldberg (DPD), Sebhat Tenna (DON), Sally Clark, (Seattle City Council), Tony Mazzella (SDOT), Thomas Whittemore (DON)

Review & Approve May 5, 2011 Meeting Summary Notes

- Tabled until next meeting

Councilmember Clark

- In 2009 she encouraged then Mayor Nickels to take a look at the Neighborhood Plans that had been done and decide where to go from there. This led to the current Neighborhood Plan Update work.
- As a councilmember, she remained interested in community driven planning. Process and product need to be owned by the community.
- Budget issues have made it a struggle to find money to support the outcomes of the planning. She will work to find and protect this funding in the next budget cycle.

NAC member: What committees do you serve on?

CM Currently Land Use, previously on Neighborhoods Committee. Still attends this committee's meetings when neighborhood planning is being discussed. Vice-chair of Human Services, Housing and Health, member of Public Safety and Education committee, also serves on the labor committees and the Board of Health for King County.

NAC member: Doesn't seem to have been a lot done from the old plan.

CM It's a mixed bag. Sometimes plans were not specific enough on how to get things done. Departments may check things off as being done, when only a small portion is completed. Mayor is asking departments to identify cuts in the 4-8% range; this could hurt outcomes. Mid-year cuts will be announced in June. Mayor's 2012 budget speech will be delivered in September.

NAC member: If the economy improves by the time current update is finished, will projects now being considered still be at the top of list to fund?

CM Capital spending budget criteria is not based on timeline; other issues are considered. You have great advocates in this group; keep your voices heard. The Mayor has come out, as well as councilmembers; should continue to do this.

NAC member: Can projects already promised be retracted in the next budget?

CM Continue writing to Mayor, Council, etc. to remind them of what has been promised.

NAC member: Would you prefer hearing from groups as opposed to individuals?

CM There is not a single best answer. Personal experience has a strong affect.

NAC member: How do you come across as being not just angry?

CM If you are angry, you should say so. However, listing points and giving ideas is very useful. Should not be disrespectful, but can remind Council of what they can do.

Good to get as many people involved as possible; useful to get coalition together to speak on issues.

NAC member: We are seen as an outer edge of the city. We feel the City doesn't see the area as having the same needs as the rest of the city.

CM You can embrace the fringe; have imagined an alliance of all the far corners of the city. Outer neighborhoods are left out of a lot of the conversations around mobility, etc. Some people are ambivalent about changes and want to protect the way things are now.

What we are talking about is social equity. We wanted the infrastructure before development took place; that didn't happen.

Rainier has these issues as well; education is at the top of the list in regard to social equity issues.

Would love to attend your meeting with Rainier Beach NAC and other councilmembers would too!

Makers: Phase 1 Key Issues graphic, Neighborhood Serving Centers

- Shared a map showing commercial nodes, residential areas, schools, street trees, etc., to be used as a reference while discussing issues.
- NAC member stated/noted:
 - that neighborhood routes through areas is not noted.
 - would like to see more urban hamlets on the map.
 - that bike route to Northgate be noted and needed improvements to the route be noted as well.
 - the golf course is not really a park. Nora stated a better breakdown of park types would be helpful.
 - using various symbols for different types of open spaces would help.
 - that Linden Avenue is not marked as a Complete Street.
- Hierarchy of neighborhood centers
 - NAC member requested markings to show possible residential service areas along Aurora, such as at 130th or 125th.
 - Regional-level commercial districts are not attractive. Should try to improve. Should include Northgate Way in this category.

- Nora stressed to look at this from perspective of what was heard from larger community.
- Area around Linden and 130th community service area. Would like to see kiosk, plaza, third place books type of place.
- Consultant provided building pictures and asked NAC to identify favorites:
 - Should consider issues of scale. Current is 65 ft. Larger buildings might be good if they included open space/plazas.
 - Comfort level seems to be around the mid-rise level.
 - Need to have more trees.
- Aurora area – safety concerns/pedestrian issues. Looking for small scale businesses/offices as well.
- Discussion around business size in hamlets. How big is too big?
- Area west of 3rd not being addressed. No easy solutions for this area.

NAC members are asked to give input via e-mail, etc.

Formulating transportation strategies (Tony Mazzella, SDOT)

- Tony Mazzella (TM) shared map showing projects currently underway and projects noted in original plan asking if these are still the priorities.
- Pedestrian improvement tier one and two map and pedestrian overlay map showing high priority projects in high priority areas were also shared.
- NAC members stated
 - Lack of east/west connections in the neighborhood.
 - Lack of safe bicycling routes to Northgate transit center.

NAC members instructed to send comments to David.

- Tony provided the following counsel to NAC
 - Align projects with City priorities as far as possible.
 - Identifying key corridors is also a good idea. What prevents the corridor from performing in the way you think it should? Is it lacking sidewalks or are there issues with the sidewalks? Be as specific as possible.
 - Reference strategies to specific SDOT programs i.e. Neighborhood Projects Fund, Walking Routes to School, etc.
 - Become familiar with funding possibilities. Streets that are scheduled to be paved are also major drivers of funding as there will be lots of improvements done besides paving; e.g., Northgate Community Center area began with a community design that led to lots of improvements.

NAC member: How much detail is needed?

TM More detail never hurts.

NAC member: Any Improvement plans for Aurora?

TM A grant was submitted by city of Seattle, city of Shoreline and Metro to Federal government for Bus Rapid Ride Corridor along Aurora into downtown Seattle. Will find out if funding is granted this fall. Many pedestrian improvements are included in this grant application.

NAC member: Should use non-leaf dropping trees along streets in the future.

TM Might want to carve out space in the plan to address routine maintenance. These are the types of things that are cut in tight budgets.

Jennifer Wieland is contact around Pedestrian Master Plan in SDOT.

- Rick provided a brief presentation on areas around transportation corridors that they have high levels of air pollution resulting in increased sickness and death in the area. Area between Aurora and I-5 is not as healthy as many other areas in Seattle.

Phase II Community Workshop

- The Community workshop is scheduled for June 21, 2011 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Bitter Lake Community Center.
- Goal is to put in front of community members what we have heard from them so far. The other piece is how do we move forward?
- How should the meeting and the questions be organized?
 - City staff is thinking of sit down discussion around tables based on topics. Should we use department-based themes, or community health and stability point of view?
 - NAC member stated
 - If people are allowed to pick their own focus group, the members may be passionate, but not representative of the community.
 - Community health and stability focus should not be used as NAC members are confused over it, so certainly community would be.
 - Nora agreed staff have not explained the community health and stability focus very well. However, some of the funding is coming from Public Health, so those values need to be woven in. Will take one more crack at figuring this out.
- Help getting information out
 - Will be doing an e-mail blast.
 - NAC member suggested contacting communications department at school district about sending notes home to parents and putting info on area school reader boards.
 - Could use signs throughout the community.
 - Mayor has scheduled a Town Hall in the area on June 14; would be good venue to get the word out.
 - Tabling at Albertson, Grocery Outlet and QFC grocery stores

NAC members are asked to include meeting info in any local newsletters they may have connections with.

Wrap-up

Sebhat will e-mail detailed info on Youth Neighborhood Walking Tour and seek NAC members' participation.